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SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1942

No. 968

BENGUET CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY (A CORPORATION),

Petitioner,

vs.

IDONAH SLADE PERKINS, SAMUEL I. HARTMAN AS RECEIVER, HARTFORD BEAUMONT AND GEORGE A. FERRIS.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT, DIVISION ONE.

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PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT, DIVISION ONE.

To the Honorable, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States:

Your petitioner, Benguet Consolidated Mining Company, prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment of the District Court of Appeal of the State of California for the First Appellate District, Division One, entered in the above case on November 30, 1942, affirming with modification the judgment of the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the City and County of San Francisco.

Opinion Below.

The Superior Court rendered no opinion; its findings of fact, conclusions of law and judgment are at R. 77, 119. The opinion of the District Court of Appeal (R. 798), filed November 30, 1942, is reported in 55 A. C. A. 831; the majority and dissenting opinions on denial of a motion for rehearing (R. 849, 850) are reported in 56 A. C. A. 447. All three opinions are reported in 132 P. (2d) 70, 102. The Supreme Court of California denied a hearing without opinion (R. 851).

Jurisdiction.

The decision and judgment of the District Court of Appeal were filed November 30, 1942 (R. 797). A petition for rehearing was denied, with an opinion and dissenting opinion, December 30, 1942 (R. 849, 850). The Supreme Court of California denied a hearing January 28, 1943 (R. 851).

The judgment sought to be reviewed (R. 797) is final. It disposes of every issue in the case and remands, with specific instructions, for the deduction from the amount of the judgment of a definite sum of money representing interest. The directed modification requires no more than arithmetical computation "and left nothing to the discretion of the trial court". (*Rio Grande Ry. Co.* v. *Stringham* (1915), 239 U. S. 44; *Mower* v. *Fletcher* (1885), 114 U. S. 127, 128.)

The District Court of Appeal is the highest court of the State in which decision could be had, unless a hearing were granted by the Supreme Court of California at its discretion (Constitution of California, Art. VI, Secs. 4, 4a, 4b, 4c). A hearing was denied (R. 851).

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under Section 237 (b) of the Judicial Code, as amended by the Act of February 13, 1925.

The decision of the court below denied full faith and credit to judgments of the courts of the Philippine Islands,

in violation of Section 905 of the Revised Statutes (28 U. S. C. 687). This question was raised by petitioner in its answer (R. 32, 35); was urged on motion for new trial (R. 785) and was ruled upon by the trial court on that motion (R. 788, 794) and in its findings (Findings IX, XII, R. 92, 95); was urged in petitioner's briefs and argument before both the District Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of California;[1] and was expressly passed upon by the District Court of Appeal (R. 806, 816).

The decision of the court below gave conclusive effect against petitioner to a New York judgment, to which petitioner is neither a party nor privy, in violation of the due process of law clause of the Federal Constitution. This question was raised at the first opportunity, when the New York judgment roll was offered in evidence (R. 136); was urged on motion for new trial (R. 784) and was ruled upon by the trial court on that motion (R. 787, 788, 794) and in its findings (Findings VI, XVI, R. 89, 103); was urged in petitioner's briefs and argument before both the District Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of California;[2] and was passed upon by the District Court of Appeal.[3]

The decision of the court below denied full faith and credit to a judgment of the State of New York, in violation of Section 1 of Article IV of the Federal Constitution and Section 905 of the Revised Statutes. This question was raised in petitioner's answer (R. 50); was urged on motion

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[1] Under the California practice, an appeal is taken merely by notice (R. 796) and there are no assignments of error. The questions presented on appeal are stated only in the briefs.

[2] See note 1, *supra*.

[3] Although the District Court of Appeal did not mention the due process clause of the Federal Constitution, it passed on the substance of the contention (R. 806, 812, *et seq.*). Petitioner expressly urged the Federal question in both the District Court of Appeal (R. 853) and in the Supreme Court of California (R. 854).

for new trial (R. 784, 785) and was ruled upon by the trial court on that motion (R. 787, 794) and in its findings (Finding XV, R. 102); was urged in petitioner's briefs and argument before the District Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of California;[4] and was expressly passed upon by the District Court of Appeal (R. 828).

Statutes Involved.

Section 905 of the Revised Statutes (28 U. S. C. 687) provides:

> "Sec. 905. The acts of the legislature of any State or Territory, or of any country subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, shall be authenticated by having the seals of such State, Territory, or country affixed thereto. The records and judicial proceedings of the courts of any State or Territory, or of any such country, shall be proved or admitted in any other court within the United States, by the attestation of the Clerk, and the seal of the court annexed, if there be a seal, together with a certificate of the judge, chief justice, or presiding magistrate, that the said attestation is in due form. And the said records and judicial proceedings, so authenticated, shall have such faith and credit given to them in every court within the United States as they have by law or usage in the courts of the State from which they are taken."

Statement of the Case.

We believe this case to be one of the most extraordinary ever to come before this Court. It is an action by respondent to recover from petitioner dividends accrued since 1930 on 144,000 shares of petitioner's capital stock. These dividends, with accrued interest, amount to nearly half a million dollars. By the judgment below, petitioner is condemned—without a hearing—to pay this sum to respondent,

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[4] See note 1, *supra*.

notwithstanding it has already paid the same dividends[5] to others pursuant to the final judgments of the courts of its domicile, the Philippine Islands.

The facts, in brief, are these:[6]

Petitioner is a Philippine *sociedad anonima*, organized under the Code of Commerce of Spain. It is engaged in mining in the Philippines. It has never done business in this country (R. 4, 19).

Respondent, Mrs. Perkins, is the wife of Eugene Arthur Perkins, a resident of the Philippines. At all times material herein (from the date of their marriage, January 3, 1914, to October 17, 1930), both Mr. and Mrs. Perkins were residents of, and were domiciled in, the Islands (R. 177).

Between 1916 and 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Perkins purchased the shares of petitioner's stock in suit[7] with money belonging to the conjugal partnership (R. 189).[8] The stock was placed in the name of Mrs. Perkins, but under the law of the Philippines, which determines the property rights in

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[5] Except a small part of the total which has been impounded pending the outcome of this suit, and for which petitioner is now being sued in the Philippines.

[6] Because, as will later appear, virtually all of petitioner's evidence was excluded, the statement of facts is based in part on offers of proof, the sufficiency of which was stipulated at the trial and approved by the court. See, for example, R. 177, *et seq.*

[7] The original purchase was 24,000 shares. These shares have been increased by stock dividends to 144,000 shares.

[8] The Philippine law governing property relations of husband and wife is the Civil Code of Spain. Marriage establishes a "conjugal partnership" (Article 1315), which persists during marriage (Articles 1393, 1394). The husband is sole manager of the partnership (Articles 1412, 1413). The property of the partnership includes earnings and profits of both spouses during marriage, and also the income from separate property of either (Articles 1392, 1401). See Fisher, Civil Code of Spain with Philippine notes; see also R. 190-192.

It was stipulated at the trial that the book just cited, among others, should be deemed admitted as evidence of Philippine law. It was further stipulated that the court should take judicial notice of Philippine law (R. 151, 159-161).

this stock (R. 262, 266-267), the stock was the property of the conjugal partnership (R. 183, 185, 189, 190-192, 194) and as such was subject to the sole management and control of the husband (R. 191).

In 1930, a marital dispute arose between Mr. and Mrs. Perkins, and each of them demanded the dividends on the stock—Mrs. Perkins claiming that it was her separate property and that she therefore was entitled to the dividends (R. 655); Mr. Perkins claiming as manager of the conjugal partnership. Petitioner paid the dividends to the husband for the reason that, under Philippine law, he was entitled to receive them even if the stock was the wife's separate property (R. 781, 191; see note 8, *supra*).

Thereupon, Mrs. Perkins brought suit in Manila against her husband for a judicial separation and liquidation of the conjugal partnership. In this suit, on *August 4, 1930,* judgment was entered for the husband, the court decreeing that the shares were property of the conjugal partnership, and ordering Mrs. Perkins to account for them to her husband (R. 661, 684). Although respondent had consented to the entry of this judgment, she later refused to comply with it, and moved to vacate the judgment on the ground that it was obtained by her husband's fraud (R. 696). Her motion was denied on the ground, among others, that no fraud had been practiced (R. 696, 702), and this decision was affirmed by the Philippine Supreme Court (*Perkins* v. *Perkins*, 57 Phil. 205). In the meantime, contempt proceedings had been brought by Mr. Perkins to compel Mrs. Perkins to comply with the decree. In these proceedings, and in a parallel habeas corpus proceeding, the trial court and the Supreme Court of the Philippines held that the decree of August 4, 1930, had adjudged that the stock belonged to the conjugal partnership and directed Mrs. Perkins to comply with that decree by delivering the stock certificates to her

husband R. 692, 720; (*Perkins* v. *Perkins,* 57 Phil. 205; *Perkins* v. *Director of Prisons,* 58 Phil. 271). In an attempt to avoid enforcement of these decrees, Mrs. Perkins sent the stock certificates to New York and fled the jurisdiction (R. 775).

Thereupon, Mr. Perkins filed a petition in the original Philippine suit asking that petitioner be compelled to cancel the certificates in Mrs. Perkins' name and issue new certificates to Mr. Perkins (R. 714). Petitioner opposed this order (R. 728), but, by a decree entered *April 5, 1934,* the Philippine court held that it had jurisdiction to enforce its prior judgment and ordered petitioner to cancel the certificates in Mrs. Perkins' name and to issue new certificates to Mr. Perkins (R. 774). This decree, under the law of the Philippines, "was a lawful order which the court had jurisdiction to make and which was binding upon" petitioner (R. 267).

Following this decision, and the issuance of the new certificates to Mr. Perkins in compliance therewith (R. 317, 777), Mr. Perkins transferred most of the shares to third persons (R. 304-308).

Pursuant to these judgments of the courts of its domicile, and pursuant to the property laws of the Philippines, petitioner paid the dividends during 1930 and the following years to Mr. Perkins and to his transferees (R. 82, 109, 297-312).

In the meantime, Mr. Perkins had learned that the old certificates were in the hands of the Guaranty Trust Company in New York and he brought a replevin suit against that Company to obtain them. Mrs. Perkins was impleaded and filed a cross-complaint, alleging, among other things, that the Philippine judgments were fraudulent and void, and praying judgment against her husband for the dividends he had collected (R. 499).

Petitioner was not a party to this suit (R. 84-85).[9]

The New York Supreme Court gave judgment for Mr. Perkins (R. 549); the Appellate Division affirmed (R. 550); but in 1937, the New York Court of Appeals reversed the judgment, holding that the Philippine decrees were fraudulent or made without jurisdiction—although the Philippine courts, expressly passing upon the same questions, had held exactly the contrary. (*Perkins* v. *Guaranty Trust Co. of New York,* 274 N. Y. 250, 8 N. E. (2d) 849; compare *Perkins* v. *Perkins,* 57 Phil. 205; *Perkins* v. *Director of Prisons,* 58 Phil. 271). On remittitur the New York trial court entered judgment in favor of Mrs. Perkins and against Mr. Perkins for the amount of the dividends collected by him from 1930 to 1937 (R. 627).

Upon being notified by Mrs. Perkins of the New York judgment, petitioner commenced impounding dividends on all of the stock which remained in Mr. Perkins' name (R. 88-89, 310, 311). It could not, of course, impound the dividends on the 82,000 shares which Mr. Perkins had transferred to third persons and whose title rested upon the decree of the Philippine courts. All of these dividends have been paid (R. 88-89, 304-312).

Mrs. Perkins made no attempt to enforce her judgment against her husband; instead, she immediately brought this suit against petitioner in California—a jurisdiction completely foreign to every party and every transaction—obtaining jurisdiction by the attachment of a bank account which petitioner happened to have at the time in San Francisco. Soon thereafter, *Mr.* Perkins (who was in the Philippines and could not be made a party to the California suit)

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[9] Petitioner did not even have knowledge of the institution of this New York suit until more than six months after it had been brought (R. 106). At that time, Mrs. Perkins made an ineffective service on the Company, but with her consent this attempted service was vacated (R. 84, 652, 654).

also sued petitioner in Manila, claiming that the New York judgment was void and not entitled to faith and credit in the Philippines, and demanding from petitioner the payment of the impounded dividends. Mrs. Perkins was made a party to that suit and after she had filed an appearance therein, petitioner invoked the doctrine of *forum non conveniens* and asked the California court to remand the parties to the Philippines where the cause of action arose and where all parties to the controversy were in one court (R. 477-482).[10] This motion was denied and the cause proceeded to trial.

At the trial, Mrs. Perkins offered no evidence of her title to the stock or dividends except the New York judgment in the action between herself and her husband. Petitioner objected to the admission of this judgment on the ground that it was hearsay as to petitioner, a non-party, and specifically that its admission to bind petitioner would deny it the opportunity to make a defense and would deprive it of property without due process of law, in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment (R. 136). Nevertheless, the judgment was admitted.

Thereafter, petitioner offered to prove the defenses set forth in its answer: that the shares and dividends belonged to the conjugal partnership of respondent and her husband and that petitioner, therefore, had properly paid the dividends to Mr. Perkins and his transferees (R. 177, et seq.); that the courts of petitioner's domicile, the Philippines, had so adjudged by valid decrees entitled to full faith and credit, first, as between Mr. and Mrs. Perkins, and later in proceedings to which petitioner itself was a party (R. 200 et seq., 233, 267). The trial court, however, refused to receive any evidence on the issues of title or the validity or effect of the Philippine decrees, holding the

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[10] This was before the Japanese occupation.

New York judgment conclusive on petitioner, not only as to future dividends *but also as to dividends which it already had paid.* The findings of the trial court on the issue of title to the dividends and the faith and credit to be given to the Philippine decrees are explicitly based on the New York record alone, using the formula: "The Supreme Court of the State of New York * * * found and determined * * * and accordingly this court finds * * *" (Findings VI-XIII, R. 89-97).

The course of the trial, the effect given to the New York judgment, the offers of proof of petitioner and their rejection, are stated by the District Court of Appeal (R. 805):

> "At the trial of the present action plaintiff offered no evidence of her title to the dividends except the judgment roll of the New York action. Defendant's objections to the introduction of this record were overruled and the New York record was admitted as competent and conclusive evidence of plaintiff's title. Defendant made an offer to prove at the trial the allegations of its answer that the shares and the dividends belonged to the conjugal partnership of plaintiff and her husband, and that, therefore, the dividends were payable to plaintiff's husband and his transferees. Defendant also offered to prove that, under the facts, Philippine law was applicable. The trial court sustained plaintiff's objection to such offers and ruled that the New York judgment and every finding upon which it rests was conclusive against defendant with respect to everything therein adjudicated, i. e., *res judicata* in the same way as if defendant had been a party to the New York action."

The District Court of Appeal affirmed this ruling (R. 849, 797). For a further discussion of the decision of that court, see page 15, *et seq.*, infra).

Petitioner also pleaded as a further defense that respondent, by obtaining judgment against her husband in

New York for the amount representing all dividends to and including those of March 30, 1937, had ratified the payment of these dividends to her husband and had waived petitioner's liability, if any, to respondent therefor. In support of this defense, petitioner urged that this was the effect of the New York judgment in New York under the decision of the Court of Appeals in *Fowler* v. *Bowery Savings Bank,* 113 N. Y. 450, 21 N. E. 172,[11] and that the California courts are required to give the same effect to the judgment in California (R. 784-5, 794). The trial court conceded that if it were required to apply the New York law, and thus give the judgment the same effect in California as it has in New York, it would be compelled to hold that the judgment obtained by Mrs. Perkins precluded recovery of the same dividends from petitioner (R. 791). But it held that the California courts are not required to follow the law of New York in this regard and that under the law of California the judgment did not constitute a binding election (R. 791). The District Court of Appeal rejected this conclusion of the trial court. It assumed that the effect of the New York judgment must be determined by the law of New York (R. 834), but it held that in its (the California court's) opinion the rule of the *Fowler* case is unsound and that the New York Court of Appeals would no longer adhere to it if the question were now to arise (R. 835, 836).

Questions Presented.

1. May the court below, consistently with the requirement of due process of law of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, duly invoked, give to a judgment of a court of the State of New York conclusive

[11] The California courts take judicial notice of the law of New York as established by the decisions of its courts. California Code of Civil Procedure, section 1875 (3).

effect against petitioner, who is neither a party nor in privity with a party therein?

2. May the court below, consistently with the requirement of full faith and credit of Section 905 Revised Statutes of the United States, duly invoked by petitioner, deny faith and credit to final and valid adjudications of the courts of the Philippine Islands, to one of which petitioner is a party, because such adjudications have been held fraudulent or void by a judgment of a court of the State of New York, to which petitioner is neither a party nor in privity with a party therein?

3. May the court below, consistently with the requirements of full faith and credit of Section 1 of Article IV of the Constitution of the United States and of Section 905, Revised Statutes of the United States, duly invoked, deny to the judgment of a court of the State of New York the effect of such judgment as an election of remedies which it has by law and usage in the courts of the State of New York as determined by the decisions of the highest court of that state?

Reasons Relied On for the Allowance of the Writ.

I

The Decision of the Court Below Holding Petitioner Concluded by a Judgment to Which It Was Neither Party Nor Privy Deprives Petitioner of Its Property Without Due Process of Law and is in Conflict With Controlling Decisions of This Court.

It is the settled rule of this Court that,

> "* * * when the judgment of a state court, ascribing to the judgment of another court the binding force and effect of res judicata, is challenged for want of due process it becomes the duty of this court to ex-

> amine the course of procedure in both litigations to ascertain whether the litigant whose rights have thus been adjudicated has been afforded such notice and opportunity to be heard as are requisite to the due process which the Constitution prescribes" (*Hansberry* v. *Lee* (1940) 311 U. S. 32, 40).

Petitioner was admittedly neither party nor privy to the New York judgment to which the courts below gave such effect herein as to deny petitioner its day in court. The District Court of Appeal has held (R. 813) that "the New York judgment is clearly *res judicata* and binds defendant corporation *although it was not a party to that action.*" [12] Also (R. 814):

> "It may be that a corporation in the position of defendant herein does not fit into definitions commonly given as to who is 'privy' to a judgment, so as to be bound by it although not a party."

And again (R. 815-816):

> "As already pointed out, the corporation, *although not a privy under the usual definition,* does bear such a relation to the New York action as to be bound thereby."

Petitioner's "relation to the New York action" was that of a stranger. It was not a party of record, it was not represented, it had no voice therein, and it had no interest in the issues between Mr. and Mrs. Perkins therein litigated; it has succeeded to no interest of any party therein. It had no opportunity in that action to show that it had paid its true debtors, to establish the validity of the decrees of the courts of its domicile pursuant to which it has paid, or to appeal to this Court for relief against New York's disregard of those decrees. Nor did the New York court purport to grant any relief against petitioner, a non-party. The judgment was

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[12] Emphasis throughout the petition is ours unless otherwise noted.

that respondent recover the amount of the dividends from *her husband,* a judgment she still has and presumably may enforce.

The extreme injustice of the decision below is emphasized by the fact that petitioner, after the New York judgment had been admitted over its protest, offered to prove that that judgment was procured by Mrs. Perkins' willful perjury (R. 454). But the court refused even this proof (R. 456). Petitioner is thus held concluded by a judgment founded on deliberate perjury which it has never had the opportunity to combat.

This court held in *Hansberry* v. *Lee* (1940), 311 U. S. 32, 40:

> "It is a principle of general application in Anglo-American jurisprudence that one is not bound by a judgment *in personam* in a litigation in which he is not designated as a party or to which he has not been made a party by service of process [citation]. A judgment rendered in such circumstances is not entitled to the full faith and credit which the Constitution and statute of the United States, R. S. sec. 905, 28 U. S. C. A., sec. 687, prescribe [citations], and judicial action enforcing it against the person or property of the absent party is not that due process which the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments require [citation]."

And in *Postal Telegraph Cable Co.* v. *Newport* (1918), 247 U. S. 464, 476:

> "The doctrine of *res judicata* rests at bottom upon the ground that the party to be affected, or some other with whom he is in privity, has litigated or had an opportunity to litigate the same matter in a former action in a court of competent jurisdiction [citations]. The opportunity to be heard is an essential requisite of due process of law in judicial proceedings [citations]. And as a State may not, consistently with the Fourteenth Amendment, enforce a judgment against a party named

> in the proceedings without a hearing or an opportunity to be heard [citations], so it cannot, without disregarding the requirement of due process, give a conclusive effect to a prior judgment against one who is neither a party nor in privity with a party therein."

And see *Riley* v. *New York Trust Co.*, 315 U. S. 343, 349, 350, 353-354.

The error into which the District Court of Appeal fell is, we submit, manifested by its opinions. In its first and main opinion (R. 798), the court misconceived the record and *completely disregarded petitioner's offers of proof.* It recited the facts from the New York judgment, and from these facts and from certain incomplete testimony relating to the issue of equitable estoppel [13] reached the conclusion that Mrs. Perkins is entitled to the dividends. There are even suggestions in the opinion that petitioner itself has been guilty of bad faith (R. 801, 803, 805, 812, 823, 824, 828). Further, the court based its opinion in part on the repeated misstatement that the trial court had found that petitioner "did not pay any of the dividends in good faith reliance on any of the Philippine adjudications" (R. 823). From all of these statements, the court concluded that "no equities exist in favor of defendant" that "all the equities are in favor of Mrs. Perkins" (R. 828), and that "where a situation arises which so obviously calls for application of the doctrine of res judicata as does the present case • • • definitions of "privies" and "privity" drawn from other

[13] Petitioner pleaded as one of its defenses (R. 60) that respondent, by her own acts and representations upon which petitioner had relied, was estopped to claim the dividends (R. 64, 65). The trial judge allowed evidence on this issue and made a special finding thereon (Finding XVII; R. 103). This defense, turning purely on the facts, was not urged by petitioner on appeal. In its main opinion, the District Court of Appeal apparently relies in part upon this estoppel testimony, disregarding the fact that it was fragmentary in so far as it might have anything to do with the main issues, and that the trial court had refused petitioner the right to make *any* proof on these issues.

situations do not constitute an obstacle to reaching a sound result" (R. 814). Thus the court was in the position of having held that the New York judgment was conclusive because petitioner had no equity and that petitioner had no equity because of the New York judgment.

When we called the attention of the court, in a petition for rehearing, to the fact that its decision disregarded the offers of proof, that the trial court had made no finding that petitioner had not paid in good faith reliance on the decrees of the Philippine courts, that petitioner had offered to prove that it had paid to the rightful owner pursuant to valid decrees, and *that no possible equities can exist against a corporation which pays dividends to the one entitled to receive them*—one member of the court withdrew his concurrence in the opinion (R. 850) and the majority filed a new opinion. This opinion (R. 849) held that the mere fact that petitioner had notice of Mrs. Perkins' claim made its conduct in paying the dividends, even pursuant to final decrees of the courts of its domicile, *fraudulent as a matter of law,* and, presumably, that petitioner for this reason is not entitled to make a defense. Such a ruling is without precedent and, we submit, untenable.

> "The law does not impose upon any person absolutely entitled to a hearing the burden of voluntary intervention in a suit to which he is a stranger. * * * Unless duly summoned to appear in a legal proceeding, a person not a privy may rest assured that a judgment recovered therein will not affect his legal rights" (*Chase National Bank* v. *Norwalk* (1934) 291 U. S. 431, 441).

It is apparent that the court below assumed that the findings of the New York court are true, and upon this assumption based its conclusion that the New York judgment is admissible and conclusive against petitioner in order to reach a "sound result."

Petitioner submits that even a "sound result" may not be reached without due process of law; that, to put the same idea in different form, the court may not assume the soundness of a result as a ground for denying petitioner the opportunity to challenge such soundness.

If petitioner is estopped to make its defense by the judgment of the New York court in the action between Mr. and Mrs. Perkins, in which it had no voice and no control, then no debtor may safely pay his creditor, for a third person may take a judgment in some remote state against the payee, who by indifference or mistake has defended inadequately, and the unfortunate and helpless debtor will be concluded by such judgment and compelled to pay again. The grave injustice of such disregard of the principles of due process is apparent in this case, where petitioner, without ever having its day in court either directly or by representation, is held liable for nearly half a million dollars by the California court for doing what was required of it by the courts of its domicile.

The court below also based its decision in part upon the repeated assumptions that petitioner is a mere "stakeholder" and has "no interest" in the dividends in suit (R. 813, 815, 816, 822, 824, 873) and that it "sets up no interest of a third person" (R. 812). It is manifest that petitioner is in no sense a stakeholder with respect to dividends which is already has paid either to Mr. Perkins or to others. Beyond this it does "set up" that 82,000 shares of this stock are now held by numerous third persons to whom petitioner has paid, and in the future will be required to pay, dividends. The transfer of these shares was made by petitioner in compliance with the decree of the Philippine courts of April 5, 1934, which, under the offers of proof, is a valid and binding decree. The decision of the court below leaves petitioner in the impossible position of being required to recognize Mrs. Perkins as the holder of 144,000 shares of

its stock, while at the same time its own courts—Mr. Perkins' claims aside—require it to recognize as holders of 82,000 shares the third persons who hold under the Philippine decree. While petitioner is in one sense a stakeholder of the impounded dividends on Mr. Perkins' stock, it is entitled to, and claims only, protection against double liability as to these dividends—a threat which is immediate since Mr. Perkins is actually suing petitioner at the present time in the Philippines to recover these dividends.[14]

II.

The Decision of the Court Below Denies Full Faith and Credit to the Philippine Adjudications in Violation of Section 905 of the Revised Statutes, and in So Ruling Misapplies the Decision of This Court in Treinies v. Sunshine Mining Co., 308 U. S. 66.

The District Court of Appeal of California, while recognizing the requirements of Section 905 of the Revised Statutes (28 U. S. C. 687) that judicial proceedings of Philippine courts be accorded the same faith and credit "as they have by law or usage" in the Philippines, nevertheless denied such effect to the Philippine adjudications pleaded and offered in proof by petitioner. "That this is a federal question is not open to doubt" (*Brown* v. *Fletcher's Estate* (1908) 210 U. S. 82, 88; *Green* v. *Van Buskirk* (1868) 7 Wall. 139).

The court below, finding that the Philippine proceedings had been denied credit in the New York action, held that the New York decision in that respect, "as on other issues, was *res judicata* and is entitled to full faith and credit in the courts of this state," and declared that the decision in *Trein-*

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[14] This suit was pending at the time of the Japanese occupation and presumably will be resumed upon the restoration of American sovereignty.

ies v. *Sunshine Mining Co.* (1939) 308 U. S. 66, "impels this conclusion" (R. 819).

But in the *Treinies* case, where the petitioner questioned the conclusive effect given to an Idaho judgment which held void a prior judgment of a Washington court, "All parties, including this petitioner, were before the [Idaho] court" (308 U. S., at p. 75), and for that reason this Court held that the Idaho judgment had the effect of *res judicata.*

In the *Treinies* case this court pointed out (p. 77) that if the Idaho court erred in denying credit to the Washington judgment, the aggrieved petitioner, being a party to the Idaho action, had a remedy in that action and should have sought a review of the error by timely petition to the Supreme Court of the United States for review by certiorari. Likewise the California court says herein (R. 819) that "if the New York court failed to give the Philippine proceedings due recognition, the remedy of Mr. Perkins was to seek a review in the Supreme Court of the United States to compel the court to give full faith and credit to such proceedings." But the remedy thus available to Mr. Perkins was not available to petitioner, a stranger to the New York action. If the California courts were justified in rejecting proof of the validity and effect of the Philippine proceedings, then the protection which Section 905 of the Revised Statutes purports to afford to this petitioner would be wholly illusory.

In *Mueller* v. *Mueller* (8th C. C. A., 1942) 124 F. (2d) 544, the action was interpleader by an insurance company against husband and wife, rival claimants of a policy. A Minnesota court, in an action between husband and wife, determined in 1938 that the wife was the owner of the policy. An Arkansas court in 1939, in a decree to which the wife was not a party, determined that the policy belonged to the husband. In the interpleader action the trial court held that the judgment of the Minnesota court was effective and that the decree of the Arkansas court was void, among

other reasons "because of a failure to accord to the judgment of the Minnesota court full faith and credit" (p. 546). The Circuit Court of Appeals said (548): "It is obvious that the courts of Arkansas under the decree procured by Ivan W. Mueller * * * gave no credit or effect to the judgment of the District Court of Hennepin County, Minnesota. The court below, in determining ownership of the policy, gave that judgment credit and effect, as it was required to do."

The District Court of Appeal of California has held that petitioner, "although not a privy under the usual definition [nor a party], does bear such a relation to the New York action as to be bound thereby" (R. 815-816). But petitioner bore exactly the same relation to the Philippine action between Mr. and Mrs. Perkins, and was actually a party to the supplemental proceedings in that action and to the decree of April 5, 1934 (R. 774). If by virtue of such relation petitioner is bound by the New York judgment, it must have been equally bound by the Philippine orders and decrees. If some future decree in an action between Mr. and Mrs. Perkins should declare the New York judgment ineffective and determine that the dividends are payable to Mr. Perkins and his transferees (See *Hammell* v. *Britton* (1941) 19 Cal. (2d) 72; *Martin Bros. Box Co.* v. *Fritz* (Iowa, 1940) 292 N. W. 143), the reasoning of the court below would require petitioner then to be bound by such decree, not only as to the future but as to all past dividends including those paid under the compulsion of this decree.

It is incredible that the protection intended by the full faith and credit rule should thus be frustrated, and that a debtor, so denied the right to make defense, should be subjected to double or multiple payment of his debt. It must be borne in mind that the Philippine adjudications upholding the right of Mr. Perkins to receive the dividends were denied effect in the New York action on the ground that

they were procured by extrinsic fraud on the part of Mr. Perkins. But petitioner never had a day in court on that issue. A judgment obtained by fraud is not for that reason void, but voidable, and, at least until it is set aside it affords protection to one innocent of the fraud whose interests are affected by a relation to the action other than that of a party or privy. See *Fidelity Mutual Life Ins. Co.* v. *Clark* (1906) 203 U. S. 64.

Beyond this, Mr. Perkins is now suing petitioner in the Philippines to establish his right to the 62,000 shares of stock which have not been transferred to third persons, claiming, among other things, that the Philippine courts are not required to enforce the New York judgment because of its failure to give faith and credit to the Philippine decrees. The court below held this contention foreclosed by *Treinies* v. *Sunshine Mining Co.* (1939) 308 U. S. 66. Its decision in this regard is in conflict with the decision of the Supreme Court of Iowa in *Martin Bros. Box Co.* v. *Fritz* (1940), 228 Iowa 482, 292 N. W. 143, a decision later in time than that in the *Treinies* case, where the court held (292 N. W. 148):

> "* * * if a judgment has been adjudicated to be valid and enforcible by a court in Iowa, but enforcement of such judgment is thereafter refused by a court in Indiana, the Iowa court * * * [is not required by the full faith and credit clause to] follow the example of the Indiana court and also refuse to enforce such judgment."

Like decisions are *Hammell* v. *Britton* (1941) 19 Cal. (2d) 72, and *Grimm* v. *Barrington* (1904) 109 Mo. App. 35, 84 S. W. 357, 359. (And see *Mueller* v. *Mueller,* supra page 19 hereof.)

The court below distinguished these cases on the ground that in each "there was an attempt to vacate a final judgment *in the state which had rendered it,*" whereas here the

judgment was challenged in a third state (R. 821-822). We submit that the court below was required to apply the law of the Philippines in determining the effect of the Philippine judgments.

III.

The Decision of the Court Below Denies to the New York Judgment the Same Faith and Credit it Has by Law and Usage in New York, Contrary to the Full Faith and Credit Clause and to the Decisions of this Court.

While a judgment is *res judicata* only with respect to parties and privies, it is admissible for and against strangers to establish the fact of its own rendition and the legal consequences flowing therefrom (*Freeman on Judgments*, 5th ed., Section 1040; *Jones on Evidence*, 2d ed., Section 1818). Petitioner put the New York judgment in evidence (R. 261) to prove plaintiff's estoppel herein by her election to enforce in the New York action the alternative and inconsistent liability of her husband.

Under the full faith and credit rule, the New York judgment must be given in the California courts the same effect which it had by law or usage in the courts of New York (United States Constitution, Article IV, Section 1; Revised Statutes, Section 905 (28 U. S. C. 687); *Tilt* v. *Kelsey* (1907), 207 U. S. 43; *Williams* v. *North Carolina* (No. 29, Decided December 21, 1942), 87 L. Ed. 189; *Freeman, supra*, Section 1386). The New York law and usage are conclusively determined by the decisions of the highest court of that State (*Harding* v. *Harding* (1905) 198 U. S. 317; *Riley* v. *New York Trust Co.* (1942) 315 U. S. 343, 350-352; *Foster Milburn Co.* v. *Chinn* (2d C. C. A., 1913) 202 Fed. 175, 177; *Freeman, supra*, Section 1386).

It is undisputed that under the rule laid down by the Court of Appeals of New York in *Fowler* v. *Bowery Savings*

Bank, 113 N. Y. 450, 21 N. E. 172, the effect of the New York judgment in New York would be to preclude respondent from maintaining an action against petitioner for the dividends whose amount had been awarded her in the New York action (R. 830). The court below concluded, however, that the Court of Appeals of New York "would not have adhered to that rule at the time of the Perkins litigation in New York" (R. 835), and "that at the time of the Perkins litigation the *Fowler* case was no longer the law of New York" (R. 836).

But the *Fowler* case has never been overruled and the court below so conceded. The District Court of Appeal was unable to find any case in which the Court of Appeals had "adhered to" the law of the *Fowler* case (R. 834). In fact, however, the Court of Appeals has several times adhered to the *Fowler* case,[15] and it has been followed and applied in numerous decisions of the lower courts of New York. At the very time the Perkins litigation was pending in New York, and within a few months of the decision of the Court of Appeals in that case, the Appellate Division, in two decisions, applied the *Fowler* case and the exact principles therein which the District Court of Appeal here repudiates (*Hansen* v. *Brooklyn Trust Co.* (1936) 291 N. Y. S. 835; *Mace* v. *Rockland County Trust Co.* (1936) 291 N. Y. S. 835). The court below, in holding that the *Fowler* rule was unsound and in purporting to find the law of New York in an earlier "dictum" in *City of New York* v. *Bronx County Trust Co.*, 261 N. Y. 64, 184 N. E. 495, simply disregarded the New York law. A California court, in matters where the law of New York is controlling, is "not

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[15] See:
Terry v. *Munger*, 121 N. Y. 161, 171;
Crossman v. *U. R. Co.*, 127 N. Y. 34, 38;
Droege v. *Ahrens & Ott Mfg. Co.*, 163 N. Y. 466, 470;
American Defense Society v. *Sherman Nat. Bank*, 225 N. Y. 506, 509.

free to apply a different rule, however desirable it may believe it to be, and even though it may think that the state supreme court may establish a different rule in some future litigation." (*West* v. *A. T. & T. Co.* (1940), 311 U. S. 223, 238.)

As the court below points out, a statute was enacted in New York after the Perkins litigation for the express purpose of altering the rule of the *Fowler* case (R. 836). It is apparent, we submit, that the court in this case, conceding that the New York law must be followed to determine the effect of a judgment rendered by a New York court, holds that the New York law is not as declared by the Court of Appeals of New York, but as the intermediate appellate court in California thinks it should be.

Conclusion.

It is respectfully submitted that a writ of certiorari should issue.

Dated April —, 1943.

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